

CM Naidu Reviews Akhanda Godavari Pushkaralu 2027 Preparations

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to organise the Godavari Pushkaralu 2027 on a grand scale, combining spiritual significance with nature worship while ensuring world-class facilities for devotees.

In a review meeting conducted with officials on Tuesday, the Chief Minister suggested branding the festival as “Akhanda Godavari Pushkaralu” and involving local communities in its organisation. The 12-day Pushkaralu will be held from June 26 to July 7, 2027. Officials estimate that 8–10 crore devotees may participate, compared with around 4.86 crore during the 2015 Maha Pushkaralu.

Noting that only 10 months remain for the Pushkarams, he said all works should be started expeditiously and completed on time. He made it clear that there should be no compromise on quality. Officials informed the Chief Minister that the Finance Department has already allocated Rs 899 crore for these works. Most of the works pertain to Urban De-



velopment, R&B, Water Resources, Power and Panchayat Raj departments. Of these, 1,869 works are being taken up in East Godavari district, 625 in West Godavari, 1,501 in Konaseema, 426 in Eluru, 321 in Kakinada and 190 in Polavaram district. The CM suggested that officials should focus on mobilizing funds required for completion of these works and also seek Central assistance.

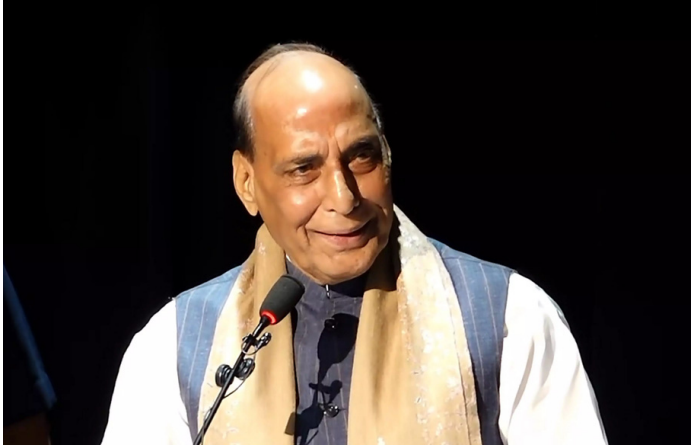
The government has planned 4,932 works worth ₹4,026 crore, of which ₹899 crore has already been allocated. A total of 440 bathing ghats will be readied, including the development of 259 existing ghats and construction of 181 new ones across six Godavari-region districts.

Naidu asked officials to ensure clean river water, pothole-free roads, improved bridges, sanitation, drinking water, accommodation and medical facilities. He also proposed developing a temple tourism circuit linking Pithapuram, Annavaram, Dwaraka Tirumala, Antarvedi and other major shrines.

AI-based crowd analytics, CCTV monitoring, drone surveillance and QR-based vehicle identification will be used for security and crowd management.

Authorities will deploy 30 temporary field hospitals, 2,697 rescue boats and 8,955 trained swimmers. Around 487 green-energy buses will also be operated.

DRDO's Missiles Will Be Made by India Inc



New Delhi: In a major strategic move to build up domestic missile production capabilities, defence minister Rajnath Singh has approved the transfer of Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) conventional missile technology to the domestic private players for production within the country as part of a larger goal to enhance domestic defence manufacturing. Under the initiative, the DRDO will transfer missile technologies to eligible defence firms.

The move comes at a time when India is reportedly looking to build a new “Rocket Force” with long-range tactical and non-nuclear vectors, which, among others, is also likely to include the Pralay missile, an indigenously developed missile with range of up to 200 km.

The transfer of technology decision is unlikely to involve the Agni series of five missiles — with ranges from 700 km for Agni 1 to 5,000 km for Agni V and the BrahMoS supersonic cruise missile which has Russia as a joint partner.

The state-owned Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has been traditionally the manufacturing base for guided missile systems and allied equipment for the Indian armed forces. BDL may now have to compete with the private players to get orders for missile production.

“In a significant step towards achieving the vision of 'aatmanirbharta' in defence, Mr Singh has approved the transfer of DRDO-developed technologies of all conventional missile systems to the Indian defence industry for production within the country,” said the defence ministry in a statement.

The defence ministry statement added that the transfer of technology (TOT) marks an important milestone in promoting greater participation of the domestic industries in the defence ecosystem by enabling them to undertake indigenous production, as per applicable qualifications, certifications and regulatory requirements.

“The provision will enable successful transition of missile system development to industrial production, reflecting the continued efforts of the DRDO to leverage the capabilities of the Indian industry for the development and manufacture of advanced defence systems,” said the defence ministry, adding that the objective is to enhance domestic manufacturing capabilities, strengthen the defence industrial base and create opportunities for the participation of Indian MSMEs and other technology partners in the supply chain.

AP Aims To Be Nation's Renewable Energy Leader: Lokesh



Andhra Pradesh is aiming to emerge as the country's leading state in the renewable energy sector, and Suzlon's wind power projects will mark a new chapter in this journey, Education Minister Nara Lokesh has said.

After laying the stone for the Suzlon Wind Energy projects at Huliker in Kanekal mandal of Rayadurg constituency on Tuesday, Lokesh said it was a matter of pride that the two-decades' association between Suzlon and Andhra Pradesh was being revived.

The minister alleged that the wind energy sector in Andhra Pradesh had virtually stalled during 2019-24, with only six MW of additional capacity being added. In contrast, the Suzlon unit in Anantapur currently has an annual manufacturing capacity of 1,260MW and provides direct employment to around 1,200 people, more than 70 per cent of whom being locals.

Suzlon has created over 2,000 green jobs across the state, he said.

The projects for which the foundation stone was laid would add 1,325mw of renewable energy capacity, involving an investment of around ₹10,000 crore and creating more than 4,000 direct and indirect jobs, the IT minister said.

Suzlon already has 1,600mw of installed capacity in Andhra Pradesh, while another 2,700mw is under construction, he noted.

The state, Lokesh said, is developing 6.5gw of data centre capacity and renewable energy sources, including solar, wind and storage systems, which would be crucial to ensuring uninterrupted power supply to these facilities. The data centre ecosystem could create opportunities for nearly 25gw of renewable energy capacity.

“Our ultimate goal is to transform AP into a ‘Saudi Arabia of clean energy’ by converting renewable power into green hydrogen and green ammonia and exporting these to the world,” Lokesh stated.

The state, he said, has set a target of 175gw of renewable energy capacity and Suzlon would play a key role in this. The government is also establishing 22 industrial clusters across the state focusing on high-growth sectors such as energy, data centres, electronics, pharmaceuticals and automobiles.

Lokesh announced that the state government and Suzlon would jointly train 12,000 youths for green energy jobs, with 25 per cent of the training opportunities earmarked for women. Skill development centres in Uravakonda and Vijayawada would prepare manpower for the sector.

The minister recalled that the Anantapur area, once known for migration of people to other regions in search of employment, was now emerging as a destination for jobs and investment. The arrival of Kia Motors, defence manufacturing units and Suzlon's renewable energy projects made this possible, he said.

Lokesh attributed this transformation to the vision of chief minister Chandrababu Naidu.

Calling upon youngsters to make use of the emerging opportunities, he said the government would focus on attracting investments while the youth should equip themselves with the required skills. “If the government, industry and youth work together, we can create wonders,” he said, thanking Suzlon for reposing confidence in the state.

Whip Kalava Srinivasulu, finance minister Payyavula Kesav and several others were present.

Veligonda Waters To Power a New Era of Development

Vijayawada: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's three-decade-old resolve to bring Krishna waters to the drought-ravaged western Prakasam region would become a reality with the inauguration of Phase-I of the Veligonda project at Markapuram on August 31.

Describing the project as a new chapter for drought-hit areas of Prakasam, Nellore and Kadapa districts, Naidu said on Tuesday that the Veligonda waters would transform the lives of farmers and families who had endured crop failures, fluoride contamination, drinking water shortages and migration for generations.

In a statement, the Chief Minister recalled that he had laid the foundation stone for Veligonda on March 5, 1996, when he was CM of undivided Andhra Pradesh. “Three decades later, I am inaugurating the same project,” he said, sharing a photograph of the foundation-stone ceremony.

The project will release 10.70tmc of Krishna waters into Nallamala Sagar. As per the plan, it would provide irrigation to 4.47 lakh acres across 30 mandals and drinking water to nearly 23 lakh people in fluoride-affected areas, in phases.

The ayacut includes 3.36 lakh acres in the erstwhile Prakasam district, 84,000 acres in Nellore and 27,200 acres in Kadapa.

Phase-I would provide irrigation to 1.19 lakh acres and drinking water to four lakh people, while Phase-II will cover 3.283 lakh acres and provide drinking water to 11.25 lakh people.

The ₹10,200-crore project envisages conveying Krishna water by gravity from the foreshore of the Srisailem reservoir through twin tunnels to Nallamala Sagar. The two tunnels together extend 18.8km. Feeder canals covering 21.8km and three main canals — Teegaleru, Gottipadiya and Eastern Main Canal — form part of the system.

Naidu said the project would end the region's dependence on uncertain rainfall and groundwater. Besides stabilising agriculture and encouraging crop diversification, the availability of water would boost horticulture, agro-processing and food-processing activities, create rural employment and reduce migration.

The government also plans to develop Rayalaseema and the erstwhile Prakasam district as a horticulture hub with investments of ₹1 lakh crore. The national highways, the Bengaluru-Amaravati highway and the Ramayapatnam Port are expected to strengthen logistics and open new avenues for industrial and commercial growth.

A major benefit would be safe drinking water for fluoride-affected areas, with tap connections planned for every household. The project is also expected to recharge groundwater and reduce dependence on borewells.

The government said works worth ₹7,983 crore had been completed in Phase-I. After assuming office in 2024, the present government cleared pending bills and accelerated tunnel, canal and regulator works. It also distributed ₹768 crore in compensation to displaced families, according to the government.



Telangana Governor Launches Sunhari Mitti Abhiyan for Turmeric Farmers



Hyderabad: Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Tuesday called for greater adoption of modern technology, natural farming practices, processing, value addition and stronger market linkages to enhance the incomes of turmeric farmers.

Addressing a farmer interaction programme organised at the National Turmeric Board (NTB) headquarters in Nizamabad, the Governor said the welfare of farmers was fundamental to the prosperity of both the State and the nation.

He also launched the ‘Sunhari Mitti Abhiyan’ and a market linkage programme in the presence of turmeric farmers and felicitated outstanding farmer organisations with mementos.

Shukla said Nizamabad had earned a special place in the country's turmeric sector owing to its fertile soil and the hard work of its farmers. The establishment of the National Turmeric Board headquarters in Nizamabad marked a significant milestone and fulfilled a long-standing aspiration of turmeric farmers in the region, he said.

The Governor said the establishment of the Board had been made possible through the special initiative of MP Dharmapuri Arvind and the support and blessings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Prime Minister had undertaken several initiatives to make agriculture more remunerative and improve the livelihoods of farmers, he said.

No Scope for Errors in Electoral Roll Revision: Collector Hemanta Keshav Patil

NAGARKURNOOL : District Collector Hemanta Keshav Patil directed officials to meticulously verify the Anomalies and No Mapping cases identified during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and ensure that there are no errors in the details of eligible voters.

The Collector conducted a surprise inspection of Polling Booth No. 179 at Peddamuddunur mandal headquarters on Tuesday. During the inspection, he enquired with BLO Jyothi about the Anomalies and No Mapping cases identified as part of the SIR process. The BLO informed the Collector that notices had been issued to 160 persons under the Anomalies category, of which 120 had already received notices. The remaining 40 notices would be served by Tuesday evening. She also informed him that notices issued to all seven persons under the No Mapping category had been served.

The Collector subsequently examined the details of a voter, Hussain Basha, who had received a notice under the Anomalies category as the age difference recorded between his two daughters was less than nine months. The Collector advised the voter to submit a birth certificate or SSC certificate relating to his age and family details to the BLO and make the necessary corrections.

Collector Hemanta Keshav Patil instructed officials to en-



sure that every person who receives a notice under the SIR process is properly informed. He directed them to thoroughly verify the documents submitted by voters as per the prescribed rules and accurately update the details.

He stressed that field-level verification should be carried out comprehensively to prevent errors in the electoral roll revision process and ensure that the details of every eligible voter are correctly recorded.

DFO Revanth Chandra, RI M.D. Masoom, BLO Jyothi and others accompanied the Collector during the inspection.

Minority Welfare Drive: Generator, Tool Kits and Sewing Machines Distributed :

Peddapally, August 25, 2026 : The Telangana government's initiatives aimed at strengthening minority livelihoods received a boost in Peddapally with the distribution of generators and tool kits to members of the Turka Kasha Muslim community, along with sewing machines to minority women under the Indiramma Mahila Shakti scheme.

The distribution programme was attended by C. Vijay Ramana Rao, Chief Whip and MLA, Peddapally, and Mohd. Obedulla Kothwal, Chairman of the Telangana Minorities Finance Corporation (TGMFC). They personally handed over the equipment to the selected beneficiaries.

The generators and tool kits were distributed under the Rehabilitation of Turka Kasha for Minority Community programme. The initiative is intended to help members of the community continue and improve their traditional livelihood activities by providing the equipment required for their work.

Sewing machines were distributed to eligible minority women under the Indiramma Mahila Shakti scheme. The programme seeks to encourage women to take up tailoring and related self-employment activities, thereby creating additional sources of household income and promoting financial independence.

Speaking on the occasion, TGMFC Chairman Mohd. Obedulla Kothwal thanked Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Minorities Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin for supporting welfare measures focused on the economic empowerment of minority communities.

Kothwal said the objective of such initiatives was to move beneficiaries towards sustainable livelihoods rather than limiting welfare support to temporary assistance. Providing machinery and work-related equipment, he said, could help beneficiaries develop their skills, increase productivity and improve their earning capacity.



He also emphasised the importance of empowering minority women through self-employment opportunities and said the distribution of sewing machines would enable beneficiaries to pursue income-generating activities from their homes or establish small tailoring units.

The programme was attended by the Vice Chairman of the Municipality, local councillors, District Minority Welfare Officer of Peddapalli, TGMFC officers and staff, besides beneficiaries and members of the local community.

The event reflected the focus of the welfare initiatives on economic empowerment, traditional occupation rehabilitation, women's self-reliance and livelihood generation among disadvantaged sections of the minority community.

Logitech & Aspire For Her's nationwide women-only Generative AI Hackathon heads to Vizag for Zonal Round

Over 350 women from across Vizag and Andhra Pradesh compete at Bullaya College for a spot in the national Grand Finale

Vizag, India, - 2026 - Logitech (SIX: LOGN) (NASDAQ: LOGI), in partnership with Aspire For Her, hosted the Vizagzonal round of its nationwide Generative AI hackathon under the #WomenWhoMaster initiative. The event at Bullaya College saw young women innovators from across the region collaborate on generative AI challenges.

This initiative is a coordinated nationwide effort led by Logitech MX and Aspire For Her to democratize access to future-ready tech skills, mentorship, and career pathways. Designed as an end-to-end skill-building movement, the hackathon equips women with Generative AI capabilities, proving that applied Generative AI skills can serve as a direct catalyst for financial independence and career advancement. Demonstrating nationwide impact, the movement has mobilized nearly 100,000 women across 15,729 colleges and 5,107 cities, with over 60% of applicants coming from Tier 2 cities and below.

As the program and implementation partner, Aspire For Her helped translate the nationwide initiative into an end-to-end participant journey. Drawing on its community and institutional network, Aspire For Her supported outreach, participant mobilisation, generative AI enablement, mentoring and the coordination of zonal rounds across eight locations. Beyond the competition, participants will also gain access to a wider ecosystem of mentorship, skilling, peer learning and career opportunities designed to help women build sustained careers in technology.

The initiative aims to address the persistent gender gap in technology by expanding access to STEM skills, mentorship, and career opportunities for women and girls. In Vizag, 360 women participated in the regional zonal event. Participants worked on key Generative AI challenges focused on impactful real-world solutions across financial literacy, rural enterprise support, and accessible health navigation. Highlights included privacy-conscious, multilingual financial learning assistants helping women calculate emergency fund needs, understand long-term investments, and detect online financial scams; evidence-backed rural enterprise decision tools designed with accessible UI features for low-vision and first-time

smartphone users; and inclusive health navigation platforms providing non-diagnostic symptom guidance and consultation prep for users with visual and hearing disabilities.

Shortlisted finalists from Vizag will head to Chennai for the Grand Finale on September 10 at Logitech's HQ competing among 112 national finalists.

Speaking on the initiative, Grace Lokako, Global Marketing Manager, MX at Logitech said, "Expanding tech access to Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities is central to our mission, and Vizag exemplifies the immense untapped potential present in India's emerging urban centers. Supporting India's broader digital-skilling priorities, hosting this round at Bullaya College shows that given the right exposure, women from every corner of India can compete and excel on a national stage."

The shortlisted finalists representing the Vizag zonal round include Mahavadi Vaishnavi Pranitha (Aditya Degree College), Deepika Pydada (Aditya Degree College, Visakhapatnam), Pavani Bokka (Aditya Degree College for Women, Kakinada), Talari Sai Sree (Aditya Degree College, Kakinada), KosuriVenkata Krishna Surya Satya Gowri (Aditya College of Engineering and Technology, Surampalem), Nirjogula Raja Rajeswari (Gayatri Vidya Parishad College of Engineering, Visakhapatnam), Yasaswini Chebolu (Gayatri Vidya ParishadCollege of Engineering, Visakhapatnam), Penmatsa Lakshmi Sravani (Shri Vishnu Engineering College for Women, Andhra Pradesh), Jerripothula Nandini (Aditya College of Engineering and Technology, Surampalem), Saheethi Betha (Gayatri VidyaParishad College of Engineering, Visakhapatnam), Sarada VydehiSusarla (Shri Vishnu Engineering College for Women, Andhra Pradesh), Mahasri Medapalli (Dr. Lankapalli Bullaya College of Engineering), Swarupa Orisi (Aditya Degree College, Visakhapatnam), Enaganti Satya Sree (Gayatri Vidya ParishadCollege of Engineering, Visakhapatnam), Naga Kanthi AlekhyaPuram (Aditya Engineering College, Surampalem), JayasriSanapathi (Shri Vishnu Engineering College for Women, Andhra Pradesh), and Muchakarla Maha Lakshmi (Shri Vishnu Engineering College for Women, Andhra Pradesh).

Let's plant trees... Let's protect the environment."

Nirmal District : District Additional Collector (Local Bodies) B. Venkateshwarlu

A massive tree-planting programme was conducted at the Adelli Pochamma Haritha Vanam in Sarangapur Mandal as part of the Vanamahotsavam programme. District Additional Collector (Local Bodies) B. Venkateshwarlu, District SP Dr. Janaki Sharmila, Chief Conservator of Forests, Basara Circle, Aparna, and DFO Sushanth Sukhdev Bobade participated in the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Collector B. Venkateshwarlu said that planting trees under the Vanamahotsavam programme would help maintain ecological balance. He said that everyone must plant trees to ensure a healthy environment for present and future generations. He stressed that protecting the saplings after planting them was as important as planting them. He called upon people to increase greenery and develop a stronger bond with nature. Tree plantation should be taken up not merely as a programme but as a mission to provide a healthy life for future generations.

Everyone Should Responsibly Plant Trees
District SP Dr. Janaki Sharmila

District SP Dr. Janaki Sharmila called upon everyone to responsibly plant trees as part of environmental protection. She said students should develop a sense of responsibility towards environmental conservation from an early age. The trees planted today would benefit generations to come, she said. Planting trees on a large scale would also help reduce pollution. She stated that protecting the environment was essential for the survival of humanity and urged everyone to take a pledge to safeguard nature. She also called for the participation of students and women's groups in environmental protection activities.

Everyone Should Cooperate to Increase Forest Cover

Chief Conservator of Forests, Basara Circle
Aparna



CCF Basara Circle Aparna appealed to everyone to cooperate in increasing forest cover. She said that forests should ideally cover 33 percent of the geographical area to maintain ecological balance. She urged people to plant and protect trees as part of the Vanamahotsavam programme to increase forest cover in the district.

She suggested gifting saplings to guests during birthdays, wedding anniversaries and other auspicious occasions. She said tree-planting activities were already being carried out extensively across the district under the Vanamahotsavam programme. She also urged people to avoid single-use plastic and contribute to environmental protection.

Cultural teams explained the importance of environmental conservation and the benefits of growing trees through cultural performances.

Later, officials, villagers, public representatives and students jointly participated in the large-scale tree plantation programme.

DRDO Vijayalakshmi, DSP Srinivas, MPDO Lakshmikantha Rao, MPO Aziz Khan, Sarpanches Kunera Bhoomanna and Dandu Sayanna, local residents, students, Forest Department officials, other officials and staff participated in the Vanamahotsavam programme.

Everyone Must Participate in Environmental Protection: SP Dr. Sangram Singh G. Patil

Nagarkurnool : As part of the Van Mahotsav programme initiated by the State Government, Nagarkurnool District SP Dr. Sangram Singh G. Patil, IPS, planted a sapling at the District Police Office premises in Nagarkurnool.

Speaking on the occasion, the SP said protecting environmental balance was the fundamental responsibility of every citizen. He called upon people to actively participate in planting and nurturing trees to ensure a healthy and sustainable environment for future generations. He said every step taken towards environmental protection



would serve as a guiding example for generations to come.

Additional SP Venkateshwarlu, AO Krishnaiah, CI Shankar, Reserve Inspector Jagan, SIs Ramesh and Ram Lal, RSIs Shivaji and Ghouse Pasha, and staff of the District Police Office participated in the programme.

Appeal to Make August 27 TGEJAC Maha Dharna a Success

SANGAREDDY, Correspondent : August 25, 2026: The Telangana Employees Joint Action Committee (TGEJAC) will organise a Maha Dharna on August 27, 2026, at 10 a.m. near the Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud statue in front of the Sangareddy Collectorate, seeking resolution of employees' genuine issues and fulfilment of their rights.

TGEJAC Chairman Mohammed Jawed Ali and General Secretary Vaidyanath appealed to employees to participate in large numbers and make the programme a success. They said police permission had been obtained for the protest.

The leaders called upon employees of all government departments, teachers, CPS employees, pensioners, outsourcing staff, workers and other employees in the district to participate. Their major demands include immediate implementation of the Second Pay Revision Commission (PRC), release of six pending instalments of DA and DR, clearance of pending bills at the rate of Rs.2,000 crore every month, and effective implementation of the new



Employees Health Scheme (EHS).

The leaders met employees at the Sangareddy Collectorate on Tuesday and explained the objectives of the Maha Dharna. They said unity among employees was their greatest strength in securing their demands and urged employees from every office to participate in an organised manner.

TNGEOS Secretary Velpur Ravi, Associate President Kasini Srikanth, Treasurer Srinivas, TGO Secretary Santosh, Pramod, Venu, Shyam Sundar, Srinivas, Shanti Kumar, Ramesh, Nageshwar Rao, Yadav Reddy, Shareef, Nagaraju, Gopal and other leaders were present.

Wednesday 26, August, 2026

INDIAN RAILWAYS—BASIC AMENITIES OFF TRACK

A train journey in India is often romanticised by writers for providing a glimpse of stunning diversity, but a closer look at the condition of railway stations and passenger amenities tells a different story. A story of neglect, callousness and inefficiency. Whether it is in cleanliness, hygiene, infrastructure, safety or punctuality, Indian Railways fares poorly. The latest report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) paints a grim picture of the Railways and shows that the country's busiest public spaces continue to fail passengers on the basics. The findings expose systemic gaps in safety, sanitation and service delivery across a network that carries 292.4 crore non-suburban passengers annually through 5,908 stations and over 7,424 daily passenger trains. The audit of 512 stations across all 16 railway zones found that 458 stations, constituting 89%, lacked one or more mandatory Minimum Essential Amenities. Only 54 stations met the prescribed standards. Even premier stations such as New Delhi, Howrah and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus showed serious deficiencies. The Railways presents a curious paradox: while it has excelled in expanding the networks and become much better at building new assets, it continues to be poor at maintaining, operating and managing existing assets to high standards. The most alarming finding of the CAG concerns public health. Drinking water samples from platform taps tested positive for total coliform bacteria, including E. coli, at 49 stations in 2022-23 and 56 stations in 2023-24. Rail Freight

Further, bacteriological tests other than total coliforms were found to be unsatisfactory at eight stations across four zones in 2022-23 and 11 stations across five zones in 2023-24. The auditor also found that chemical testing of drinking water was not conducted by health inspectors at 179 stations across 11 railway zones. At another 77 stations in six zones, the tests were not carried out as frequently as required. As per the prescribed rules, drinking water should be tested twice a year. The fact that unsatisfactory test results were reported at different locations on multiple occasions indicates that the Railways needs to work out a more effective system to ensure provision of safe drinking water to passengers at all stations. Despite significant spending on station cleaning, sanitation remained inadequate at several stations. The Railways must strictly follow the prescribed protocols for inspecting water supply systems and testing drinking water quality. The audit also exposed chronic neglect of passenger facilities. Accessibility remained poor, with deficiencies in ramps, tactile pathways and accessible toilets. Perhaps the most damning finding is that this is not merely a funding problem. Between 36% and 44% of the passenger-amenity budget remained unspent for five consecutive years.

RS Praveen Kumar asks Revanth Reddy to come clean on foreign tour

BRS general secretary RS Praveen Kumar accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of hiding details of his proposed US tour, questioning its purpose, timing, and use of public funds. He alleged the trip was linked to private interests and Congress programmes.

Hyderabad: BRS general secretary RS Praveen Kumar challenged Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to come clean on his proposed US tour and make public its complete itinerary, meetings and purpose. He said the Chief Minister failed to disclose the details at his recent media interaction and instead sought to divert attention by invoking Telangana's self-respect.

"After 30 months, Revanth Reddy has suddenly remembered Telangana's self-respect," Praveen Kumar said, questioning why the issue was not raised when Godavari River waters were flowing towards Andhra Pradesh or when officials from Andhra Pradesh were appointed to key positions in Telangana. He also questioned the Chief Minister's silence over remarks by BJP MP Tejasvi Surya against Telangana.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan on Tuesday, Praveen Kumar questioned the procedure followed for the Chief Minister's foreign travel. He said Chief Ministers, Ministers and officials travelling abroad were required to follow prescribed procedures. However, he alleged that Revanth Reddy had informed the External Affairs Ministry only five days before the



proposed tour. He demanded that all documents and details related to the visit be made public.

He rejected comparisons between Revanth Reddy's foreign tour and overseas visits by BRS leaders KT Rama Rao and T Harish Rao, who travelled in their individual capacities.

Taking a dig at Revanth Reddy's claim that he planned to visit universities in the US and UK to improve educational opportunities for backward classes, Dalits and tribals, Praveen Kumar questioned the timing of the proposed meetings. He pointed out that universities there were on summer vacation and asked whom

the Chief Minister planned to meet.

"Why go abroad when Osmania University needs attention?" he asked, recalling Revanth Reddy's announcement of Rs 1,000 crore for the university and seeking details of funds released.

Praveen Kumar suspected that the tour was aimed at promoting the proposed Future City and claimed that the Chief Minister's family had interests in land there. He also questioned the use of public money for the tour and alleged plans to participate in Congress programmes in the US.

He said Revanth Reddy's invocation of Telangana's self-respect was inconsistent with his actions, including changes to the Telangana Talli statue. If the Chief Minister genuinely believed Telangana's self-respect had been compromised, he should take moral responsibility and resign, Praveen Kumar said.

He also accused Revanth Reddy of protecting the sons of BJP and Jana Sena MPs despite their alleged wrongdoing. He asked him to stop making political statements and disclose the facts surrounding his foreign tour.

Expedite Works Related to Sarvayipet Pappanna Goud Tourism Project: Ponnam

Several instructions were given to officials regarding the statue installation and development of the surroundings BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Tuesday inspecting the ongoing works of Sardar Sarvai Pappanna Goud Tourism Project in Husnabad constituency. (Photo: By Arrangement)

Hyderabad: BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Tuesday inspected the ongoing works of Sardar Sarvai Pappanna Goud Tourism Project during "Palle Palleku Ponnam Anna – Praja Palana in Every Village" program in Sarvayipet of Saidapur mandal in Husnabad constituency.

Several instructions were given to officials regarding the statue installation and development of the surroundings. Instructions were issued to complete the works with quality and at a faster pace.

It was noted that during his tenure as PCC President, the current Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had given an



assurance in Sarvayipet to set up the Sardar Sarvai Pappanna Goud Tourism Project. It was stated that the project is being developed in accordance

with that assurance.

Instructions were issued to officials to expedite the works so that the Sarvayipet Pappanna Goud Tourism Project can be inaugurated soon by the Chief Minister.

Suggestions were also made to accelerate the works on the Sardar Sarvai Pappanna Goud Museum being constructed as part of the project. Instructions were given to complete the flooring, gardening, and beautification works in front of the museum building to create a pleasant atmosphere.

Instructions were given to officials to meticulously complete this tourism project in all aspects to introduce the history and spirit of struggle of Sardar Sarvai Pappanna Goud to future generations.

Telangana opens Chanchalguda prison for immersive jail experience

The Telangana Prisons & Correctional Services has launched the Telangana Jail Experience, an immersive programme at Chanchalguda Prison from August 25 to September 30. Visitors can spend several hours or a full day following a structured prison routine.

Visitors taste prison life: What if your next unusual experience takes you behind the walls of a real prison? The Telangana Prisons & Correctional Services is offering people a chance to experience the routines and surroundings of prison life through the Telangana Jail Experience, an immersive and supervised programme.

The experience will be available from August 25 to September 30, giving visitors an opportunity to spend several hours following a structured jail routine.

Located within the Chanchalguda Prison Complex, the programme offers a first-hand glimpse into the disciplined environment of a correctional facility. Participants can experience the setting, daily routines and structured lifestyle followed inside a prison.

To make the experience as realistic as possible, participants are required to surrender their mobile phones and follow the prescribed schedule. This includes wearing provided jail uniforms, using prison-style plates and glasses, and having the same standard meals served to the prison population.

The routine includes activities such as physical training, yoga, meditation, parade, work assignments and vocational activities including tailoring, agriculture and cleaning. Participants can also learn about prison rules, correctional procedures and rehabilitation practices under supervision.

For those opting for an overnight experience,



separate and secure accommodation is available for men and women. The barracks have different facilities, while the high-security barrack offers enhanced supervision. Participants can also experience supervised high-security and dark-cell environments as part of the programme.

There are four booking options based on duration. The four-hour experience costs Rs 500, the eight-hour option is Rs 750, the 12-hour experience costs Rs 1,000, and the 24-hour experience is priced at Rs 1,500.

The programme begins at 6 am and is open to those aged 18 years and above. Participants are expected to follow prison discipline, cooperate with staff, maintain cleanliness and participate in the activities.

Tickets for the Telangana Jail Experience can be booked through the official website or on BookMyShow.

Telangana Launches Indiramma Sewing Machine Scheme for Women

Hyderabad: The Gachibowli police detected a kidnapping case within four hours of receiving the complaint and safely rescued two minor children aged below four years.

The police received a complaint around 2 am on Tuesday from Devid Murmu, a labourer and resident of Labour Camp in Kondapur. He said that his daughter, and another labourer's daughter, was playing in the labour camp on Monday around 4 pm.

The complainant noticed that one Chaku Soren, who was residing in the same labour camp, allegedly took both the children from the camp and fled. Based on the complaint, a case was registered at Gachibowli police station and immediate efforts were initiated to trace and rescue the children.

As suspicion arose regarding the involvement of Chaku Soren, special teams were immediately formed and information regarding the accused and the missing children was circulated to various police stations and railway authorities.

One police team was deployed to check railway stations and other possible transit points. Alerts were sent to railway and law and order police stations going towards Kolkata particularly, also sent to Ghatkesar, Jangaon to Khazipet stations.

During early hours, the technical investigation and search efforts led the police team to trace the location of the accused near Ghatkesar railway station. The Gachibowli police immediately alerted the railway authorities and Ghatkesar police and, through coordinated efforts, successfully apprehended Soren, who is a native of West Bengal and rescued the kidnapped children.

Both children are safely rescued and brought to Gachibowli police station for further necessary action and are subsequently handed over to their parents or guardians as per procedure.

Plants are the basis of human survival

Let's plant plants.. Let's make the city green
GWMC Commissioner T. Venkanna plants plants



Warangal: The city should be green, and if humanity is to survive, we all need to plant plants and protect them, and only then will we be able to protect nature and the environment, said GWMC Commissioner Venkanna.

As part of the Vanamahotsavam program, GWMC Commissioner T. Venkanna planted plants at a mass tree planting program in the garden grounds of Warangal city on Tuesday under the auspices of GWMC.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner said, "Let's plant plants.. Let's make Warangal a green city." He said that everyone should take responsibility for increasing the greenery in the city and protecting the environment. He said that extensive tree planting programs are being carried out under the auspices of Baldiya as part of the Vanamahotsavam. He advised the officials that the program does not end with planting the plants, and that they should be protected and continuously monitored so that they grow into trees.

In particular, To increase greenery in the city, the relevant officials were instructed to plant suitable plants in vacant lots, along roads, parks and government places and take necessary steps to protect them. .

The Commissioner called on the people to also participate in these Vanamahotsavam programs and plant trees in their surroundings.

Former Corporator Baswaraju Kumaraswamy, CHO Laxma Reddy, MHO Dr. Rajesh, officers of the engineering and horticulture departments, local public representatives, officers, staff and others participated in this program.

Sarangapur Police Station Inspected Suddenly by Nirmal District SP Dr. G. Janaki Sharmila, IPS

Nirmal : Nirmal District Superintendent of Police Dr. G. Janaki Sharmila, IPS, conducted a surprise inspection of the Sarangapur Police Station. During the inspection, she reviewed station records, the investigation of cases, and the duties being performed by the police personnel.

On the occasion, the SP issued several instructions to the station staff. She directed them to expedite the investigation of pending cases and ensure quality investigations. She instructed the staff to listen positively to complaints received from the public and provide prompt legal solutions. Every complaint received at the police station should be registered as per the rules, and complainants should be provided with appropriate information.

The SP directed the police to maintain continuous surveillance over suspicious persons and vehicles and intensify night patrolling to prevent thefts. She also instructed them to keep a close watch on rowdy-sheeters, habitual offenders, and persons involved in anti-social activities.

She emphasized giving top priority to the safety and security of women and children. Preventive measures should be taken by identifying situations that may disturb law and order in advance.

She further instructed the staff to strengthen the beat system and regularly visit villages. Immediate response should be given to information received through Dial-112. Police station records, case diaries, and other registers should be updated regularly. She also emphasized discipline, punctuality, and remaining accessible to the public while performing their duties.

DSP Srinivas, Nirmal Rural CI Krishna, Sarangapur SI Srikanth, and other police station personnel participated in the inspection.



Plant plants, protect the environment

Forest, Environment and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha
Minister planted plants along with the District Collector



Warangal : A Vanamahotsava program was organized grandly at the Rangasaipet Government Junior and Degree College in the Qila Warangal area of the East constituency of Warangal district on Tuesday.

State Forest, Environment and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha participated as the chief guest in this program and planted plants along with District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada in a special Vanamahotsava program organized at the Rangasaipet Government Junior and Degree Colleges.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said, Everyone should plant plants responsibly and take care of

them and protect the balance of nature, Minister Surekha called on everyone to be partners in environmental protection, increasing greenery and providing a clean and healthy environment for future generations.

Minister Surekha inspected the demonstrations organized by students as part of the Vana Mahotsav highlighting the need for environmental conservation, greenery and preserving natural wealth for future generations.

Forest department officials, former corporators, local public representatives, district administration, police officers and others participated in the program.



Public government gives top priority to development of colonies

MLA Nayini lays foundation stone for development works with Rs. 1.19 crore
People need to be partners in development

Hanumakonda : Local MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy said that the government will give special priority to the development of infrastructure in Jyothibas Nagar, Peddammagadda, Akshara Colony and other areas under the 4th division of Warangal West constituency. MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy attended as the chief guest and laid the foundation stone for the development works with a fund of about Rs. 1.19 crore for the construction of internal CC roads and drainages in the colonies on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Nayini said that steps are being taken to improve roads, drainages, electricity and other infrastructure in every colony under the 4th division without any problems for the people. He has given instructions to the officials and contractors to complete the work within a month, setting a time limit for the work undertaken.

The MLA revealed that the main roads in Jyothibas Nagar Colony have already been developed and made accessible to the people, and steps are being taken to complete the CC roads and drainage works in the remaining two small streets this month. He clarified that the goal is to develop the roads, drainages, electricity system and other aspects in the colonies in a comprehensive manner without



any problems.

The MLA said that in addition to creating infrastructure to improve the living standards of the people, they are also giving high priority to the implementation of welfare schemes. He said that they are working to ensure that eligible poor families receive government welfare schemes such as ration cards, pensions, small rice and free electricity. He said that special attention is being paid to ensure that families living in poor and slum areas receive the full benefits of government welfare.

MLA Nayini called on the people to fearlessly bring their problems to the attention of public representatives and become partners in development. He said that his main goal is to know the opinions of the people and undertake development programs according to their needs.

The MLA said that the cooperation of the

local people for the development work of the colony is commendable. He assured that in the coming days, he will continuously work to develop every colony in Warangal West constituency in a phased manner and provide better living facilities to the people.

Senior Congress leaders Hanumakonda Rajender, Division Block President Hanumakonda Ambedkar Raju, leaders Bashaboyna Kumar Yadav, Division President Sridhar Yadav, former Corporator Boda Dinna, officials, leaders, activists, local people and others participated in this program.

Posters Released for Pancha Janyam Sankalpa Sabha; TRS Leaders Seek Public Support :

Nizamabad, August 25, 2026 : TRS minority leaders have intensified preparations for the "Pancha Janyam Sankalpa Sabha" to be held in Nizamabad on August 31, calling upon people from all sections of society to participate in the programme in large numbers.

Addressing a press conference in Nizamabad, party leaders said the public meeting, to be led by TRS chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha, would focus on issues related to development, welfare and social justice. Posters for the event were formally released on the occasion.

Nizamabad Parliamentary In-charge S.A. Aleem said Kalvakuntla Kavitha had played a key role in the growth and development of Nizamabad during her tenure as Member of Parliament and later as a Member of the Legislative Council. He stated that several initiatives taken during her leadership had benefited different sections of society.

Aleem said the proposed Sankalpa Sabha would provide a platform to discuss public issues and present a vision for the future development of Telangana. He urged people, especially youth, farmers, women and minority communities, to support the programme.

TRS National Media Spokesperson Mohammed Ashfaq and senior minority leader Syed Mateen Ahmed said the meeting would be organised with a five-point agenda aimed at improving the quality of life of the people. The agenda includes free education, accessible healthcare, employment opportunities, farmers' welfare and social justice.

The leaders said these issues were directly connected with the aspi-



rations of common people and would form the foundation for a progressive and inclusive society. They expressed confidence that the meeting would send a strong message in favour of development and equal opportunities.

Appealing to party cadres and the public, the leaders called for active participation in the August 31 programme and urged everyone to make the Pancha Janyam Sankalpa Sabha a historic success. Among those present were TRS minority leaders Rafiq Qureshi, Mohammed Shahnawaz Khan, Mohammed Shoaib Ali, Mohammed Azam, Azharuddin, Shoaib Ahmed and others.

Musi rejuvenation project faces land acquisition hurdles in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Despite the State government's efforts to expedite the Musi rejuvenation project, officials are facing hurdles over land acquisition, with several property owners opposing the proposed compensation options.

In the first phase, works are planned along a 21-km stretch from Osmansagar-Himayatsagar to Bapu Ghat. The government has already issued a land acquisition notification and announced the Gandhi Sarovar project at Triveni Sangamam.

The Ministry of Defence has agreed to part with 80 acres of its land at Langer Houz. Another 120 acres is proposed to be acquired for the project. Properties belonging to nearly 500 owners need to be acquired,



but many are unwilling to part with their land and properties.

Strong objections have been raised against notices issued by the Revenue Department to property owners, including farmers in Gandipet, Narsingi and Golconda mandals. Many are also reluctant to accept Transferable Development Rights (TDRs) and are demanding cash compensation instead.

Several property owners have already submitted their objections to revenue officials. Residents of Madhu Park Ridge apartments also discussed their concerns with Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka last month.

Revanth Reddy hits out at Centre over denial of US tour

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy countered the BJP's criticism over his possible meeting with New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani and stressed that the latter was not an anti-social element. "Mamdani is the elected Mayor of New York and not an anti-social element. Unless an official appointment is fixed, no programme will be conducted. He is not a councillor in our lane and one cannot meet him casually," the Chief Minister said.

City & Local Guides

At a press conference here on Monday, he asked BJP leaders to exercise restraint, saying the Indian High Commission

organises programmes and takes care of security and other arrangements. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Pakistan and whom did he meet and hug? Is Pakistan our friend or was the then Prime Minister our friend? But Telangana CM cannot travel to the US. How come you are dictating terms?" he asked.

Revanth targets MEA

Reacting to the MEA spokesperson's explanation for the denial of political clearance for his US tour, Revanth Reddy said, "Whoever is the spokesperson, he should better join BJP. He cannot continue as an MEA officer."

The Chief Minister



maintained that his application was submitted well in advance, mentioning the purpose, dates and other details of the visit. "When the purpose of visits to the UK and US was the same, why was permission denied for the US trip?" he asked.

According to him, the Centre could have denied

permission for both visits if there were shortcomings in his application. Alternatively, the MEA could have sought clarification, he said.

'Insult to Telangana

Revanth Reddy came down heavily on the Centre over the denial of permission for his US tour. The Chief Minister said the decision was not merely a denial to him but an insult to the people of Telangana. He alleged that Gujarat's dominance was behind the rejection.

"This is an insult to Telangana and obstruction to the State's development. This is clear discrimination by the Central government towards Telangana and it is not acceptable," he stressed.

Revanth Reddy cited Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel's recent visit to the US and Canada from August 17 to 24 to promote the Vibrant Gujarat 2047 vision document. He said the Centre had permitted Patel to conduct roadshows. "I have seen in the last 30 months that the Central government is reluctant to cooperate with Telangana. Be it RRR, Metro Rail or any other issue. All this is because Narendra Modi thinks he is an ambassador for Gujarat and does not want other States to develop," the Chief Minister added.

'Modi Govt's Backdoor Plan to End Reservations': Cong on Vacant Posts

New Delhi: The Congress on Monday attacked the Centre over more than 8.2 lakh sanctioned posts reportedly lying vacant across government civilian establishments, and alleged that the Modi government had hatched a plan to end reservations through the back door. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the BJP policy of conspiring to end the rights granted by the Constitution had been "exposed". His remarks came over media reports that more than 8.2 lakh sanctioned posts were lying vacant across central government civilian establishments.

Kharge shared a screenshot of ministry-wise vacant posts based on a media report that claimed that over a decade, the number of vacant posts in the central government had nearly doubled. In a post in Hindi on X, Kharge said, "The Modi government has hatched a plan to end reservations through the back



door! In 2015, there were 4.21 lakh vacant posts in the central government. By 2024, this number has risen to 8.24 lakh."

In railways, there are 2.40 lakh vacant posts, while in defence there are 2.41 lakh vacant posts, he claimed, citing the report. "In the Home Ministry, 1.10 lakh vacant posts. In PSUs, 5.1 lakh permanent jobs have been eliminated. The share of contractual workers has risen from 19% to 49%. The question is not just about employment, but about social justice," he said. "Keep government posts vacant, and the opportunity for reservations ends. Sell off PSUs, and reserved jobs end. Convert permanent jobs to contracts, and reservations end. To end reservations, it's not necessary to amend the Constitution-just eliminating jobs with reservations is enough," he said. Kharge claimed that this is the agenda of the BJP as it "opposes social justice". "Keep posts vacant. Sell off PSUs. Increase contracting. And snatch away the constitutional rights of SC, ST, OBC, EWS. The BJP policy of conspiring to end the rights granted by Babasaheb's Constitution has now been exposed," the Congress chief said.

India sought no questions at Modi-Trump meet over Trump's 'unpredictable behaviour'

New Delhi: Concerns over US President Donald Trump's "unpredictable behaviour" towards many foreign leaders led the Indian side to opt against a full press conference by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the American leader following their talks in France in June, government sources said on Monday. The clarification came after US envoy Sergio Gor publicly revealed that New Delhi had communicated to the US side to skip taking questions by the two leaders.

The sources emphasised that discussions regarding leaders' public appearances are standard protocol and part of routine diplomatic practice. Modi and Trump held bilateral talks on June 17 in Evian-les-Bains on the sidelines of the G7 summit. The meeting was widely viewed as a step forward in mending bilateral ties, which had faced severe strain over the preceding year.

The fresh controversy



comes amid a growing perception of a lack of intensity in overall relations between the two sides, with the much-talked-about bilateral trade deal remaining in limbo. The sources said that foreign delegations meeting the US President are "wary about his unpredictable behaviour as may be seen from his interactions with the presidents of South Africa and Ukraine". "Thus, the cautious approach by India," said one of them.

The sources said discussions regarding arrangements for public appearances of leaders ahead of any VVIP visit are normal

to raise?' We went over some topics and he said 'do they have any asks'," Gor said.

"MEA had one ask and it was let's bring in the media, let's not do a full press conference, no questions," Gor said he told Trump that the "Indians prefer no questions... He (Trump) said, 'Sure, no problem'". The envoy said when the meeting started, the media entered with some 50 cameras, adding Modi and Trump spoke for a few minutes.

"As soon as they get done, the first thing the President does, he looks up at the cameras and asks, 'Any questions?'" he said. "And that opened everything up," he added. The US envoy suggested that Trump had forgotten the request from the Indian side and ended up taking many questions from the media.

Naidu Tells Youth To Focus On Value Addition To Farming

VIJAYAWADA: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday has called upon the youth to focus on value addition in agriculture and food processing and start their own units to also create employment for others.

Addressing a gathering at Musunuru in Eluru district after launching a non-genetically modified organism (non-GMO) popcorn maize hybrid seed, along with Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan, Naidu said changing food habits required diversification from paddy to commercial crops.

He said the Nuzvid area had extensive palm oil and cocoa plantations and stressed the need to adopt multiple models in agriculture.

"The state government is looking at agriculture not just as cultivation of crops but also as a source of empowering the farmers to become entrepreneurs so that agriculture is given value-addition. AP raises aquaculture, Araku coffee, palm oil, cocoa, chilli, mango, turmeric, maize and several commercial crops," he said.

The CM said, "We all should feel proud that AP is raising crops that are having high global demand. We must have proper processing, value addition and brand promotion to penetrate the global market so that farmer will be king."

Naidu said only 10 per cent of aquaculture produce was currently being processed and the share



should increase to 50 to 70 per cent through value addition to improve foreign exchange earnings.

Referring to the proposal to sell Andhra Popcorn and Araku Coffee at railway stations, he said the products could become global brands and noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi wanted to promote the Swadeshi concept.

Naidu announced that a programme to develop the Rayalaseema region as a global horticulture hub would be launched in September at an estimated cost of Rs 1 lakh crore, with 40 per cent contribution from the government and the remaining 60 per cent through private partnership.

He also announced plans to complete 36 irrigation projects over the next three years at an es-

timated cost of Rs 35,000 crore. Efforts would be made to take up the Chinthalapudi lift irrigation scheme after clearing legal hurdles.

The CM said the first phase of the Veligonda project in Markapuram district would be dedicated to the nation on August 31 and Godavari water would soon be taken to north Andhra up to Anakapalli through the Polavaram left main canal. Naidu said AP had recorded 52 per cent deficient rainfall this season and stressed the need to promote natural farming, alternate crops and irrigated dry crops such as pulses. He called for treating the water crisis as a challenge and working to overcome it.

The Chief Minister appreciated vice-president Radhakrishnan's advocacy of linking the Godavari and Cauvery rivers. Referring to a recent meeting of chief ministers from the South, chaired by home minister Amit Shah, Naidu said discussions were held on interlinking five rivers — Godavari, Krishna, Tungabhadra, Penna and Cauvery — to address water shortages and stabilise command areas for cultivation.

Interlinking the Godavari, Cauvery, Mahanadi, Ganga and Brahmaputra, either simultaneously or in phases, could help India increase agricultural production and support economic growth, he stressed.

Tears, Heartbreak As India's World Cup Medal Dream Ends

Amstelveen: Tears flowed freely in the Indian camp after the women's hockey team's hopes of making the World Cup semifinals ended in heartbreak, following a goalless draw against Australia here on Sunday. As the final hooter sounded, veteran goalkeeper Savita Punia and Bichoo Devi, sitting in the dugout, broke down. Ishika Chaudhary, playing her maiden World Cup, sat behind them, staring blankly as the enormity of the missed opportunity sank in.

For a team that had dared to dream and looked capable of turning that dream into India's first medal in women's Hockey WC, the campaign ended with tears and heartbreak. India finished level on points with Australia but were eliminated from semifinal contention on goal difference. The disappointment was visible on the faces of the players as they walked off the field, many of them red-eyed and struggling to hold back tears before boarding the team bus.

For a side featuring 11 players at their first World Cup, the exit was particularly difficult to digest. Head coach Sjoerd Marijne, who spoke to the media after the match, too could not hide his disappointment, while scientific advisor and head of athlete performance Wayne Lombard and senior players tried to lift the spirits of the younger members of the squad. One player, sitting on the stairs and speaking to her mother over the phone, summed up the mood in the camp.

"This was the best opportunity. We came so close, and now I don't know when I'll get this chance again," she said. Savita, playing in her third World Cup, was equally heartbroken. "This was the best opportunity," the player with 318 caps said quietly. Experienced midfielder Neha Goyal was inconsolable. When reminded of next mission of winning gold at the Asian Games, she could only nod silently. India have never won a medal at the women's World Cup,



with their best finish being fourth in the inaugural edition in France in 1974.

Their fifth-sixth place match on August 27 will now give them a chance to have best ever finish after that. But statistics were not enough to console the players. When one player was told that a fifth-place finish would still be India's second best result at the World Cup, she replied: "A medal is a medal, isn't it?" Captain Salima Tete admitted that the players were devastated after coming so close. "We're not happy because we came so close. We worked so hard for it. We played well, but couldn't finish," she said. "We're together in defeat as well as victory. We've learned from this that we shouldn't waste any opportunity. Now we're playing for fifth place and we'll make a comeback. We haven't given up our fighting spirit yet, and we won't in this last match either," she said. Salima said it was simply not India's day despite the team putting up strong performances earlier in the tournament. "Playing on such a big stage, it doesn't feel good to leave empty-handed. But we will boost the team's morale and take fifth place," she added. India will now have to pick themselves up, wipe away the disappointment and return for one final fight after a three-day much-needed break on August 27 - this time for fifth place.

Harmanpreet Kaur on Lord's win, Asia Cup, Asian Games and IND vs PAK pressure

Hyderabad: India women's cricket captain Harmanpreet Kaur says that winning a Test match at Lord's was a very different feeling and that she is really grateful that the opportunity came in life and that she could experience it.

In a wide-ranging interview with Sony Sports Network, the 37-year-old Harmanpreet shared her views on many topics.

On Lord's victory in July 2026

Playing a Test match at Lord's is a big dream for any cricketer. For me also, it was a very big dream and to lead the team is an even bigger dream. I am really happy that I got the opportunity to play. I think, before this, I had played just 4-5 Test matches but the feeling of playing at Lord's was totally different. I think, till now, thinking about those four days we had lived, we are still talking about it. Before this, we've won so many matches, so many tournaments, but it has never been that those feelings have lasted so long or been discussed so much about those four days. It was a totally different feeling and I was really grateful that the opportunity came in life and that I could experience it.

Since I have started playing, I have always seen idols play and make India win but over here it was something I had not felt, so I am genuinely very, very grateful that I got the opportunity and the experience and am really looking forward to having such experiences again going ahead in life. History

On playing Asia Cup

The Asia Cup is a very important tournament for us. Our team has been dominating for a long time and we've won multiple titles in the Asia Cup. I think, this year, it will be even bigger because when you play back-to-back good cricket, your fans and audiences expect even more, so obviously pressure is going to be very high. But at the same time, we always discuss that we will try to enjoy our time in the field and give our best and that's how we enjoy it better. I think that the mindset is to go and play with your heart.

On challenges in Asia Cup

I think the biggest challenge is when you have the 'good team' tag, playing for those expectations is in itself a very big challenge because we know we dominate Asian cricket and it's very important to play every match with that domination. And along with that, we cannot take any team lightly and I am sure the other teams will also be preparing very strongly for this tournament because this is no less than any World Cup. I think to prepare for that and to play as per your expectations is going to be very challenging and hopefully we will give our best.

On IND vs PAK

No doubt it's a high-pressure game and as a player you need to deal with multiple things. We keep playing international cricket but the amount of pressure in an IND vs PAK match, that kind of pressure you don't feel anywhere else. In fact, you might play many



big matches but you don't feel that kind of pressure. Somewhere we know every Indian is watching, not only cricket fans but every Indian is watching because that match is so important for all of us. I think as a captain and as a player I try to keep things very simple, very easy. Only focus on cricket, focus on our aims, focus on our routines because when you follow your routines you will always get the results. So I think, results come later but before that, every moment, whatever things we need to do, it's better to focus on those rather than just putting pressure that you have to win the match. The idea always is not to think too far into the future but be in the present and try to give your best. Whatever the demand is from the team, make our game plan accordingly.

On winning Asia Cup again

We of course expect to win. Our team has been playing very good cricket. The last 4-5 years have been good and where we have played good cricket, dominating cricket, have defeated big teams and won series also. Now, we are coming after the win at Lord's and have also won many games on the trot so the team has already tasted success and will be hungry for more. The best thing is, everybody in the team talks about how to win a match, how to win tournaments. So when you have that kind of culture, you always feel motivated and you really look forward to going for any tournament. So this tournament is very important and I am sure we will play as a team and once again will make our country proud.

How Asian Games will be different

As a cricketer I think this is a very big opportunity because before this we have mostly played ICC tournaments but have not fought for a medal because as a team we have always fought for any particular trophy. I think this is one such moment where you get your own medal and I think when it's about the medals, the motivation increases even more and day and night we keep thinking how will we feel after winning the medal and how we will celebrate. I think the Asian Games, in itself, is a very different feeling and along with that the chance to witness other sports, meet other players, understand their routines, so it's not just only about cricket but knowing your other sports fellows also and how they prepare. So, there are a lot of things to see, to learn and it's a totally different experience.



ICC reprimands Sri Lanka's Prabath Jayasuriya for dissent

Sri Lanka's Prabath Jayasuriya has received an official reprimand and one demerit point for breaching the ICC Code of Conduct during the second Test against India in Colombo. He struck the boundary wedges with his bat after dismissal.

Hyderabad: Sri Lanka player Prabath Jayasuriya has been handed an official reprimand for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct on the second day of the second Test against India in Colombo on Monday.

Jayasuriya was found to have breached Article 2.2 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Play Support Personnel, which relates to "abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during an International Match."

In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to Jayasuriya's disciplinary record, for which it was his first offence in a 24-month period.

The incident occurred after Jayasuriya was dismissed with the final delivery of the day, when he struck the boundary wedges with his bat on his way back to the pavilion.

Jayasuriya admitted the offence and ac-



cepted the sanction proposed by Andy Pycroft of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, so there was no need for a formal hearing.

On-field umpires Ahsan Raza and Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid, third umpire Rod Tucker and fourth umpire Prageeth Rambukwella levelled the charge.

Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points.

Save Women's Hockey India League: India's World Cup Hockey Stars Appeal

Amstelveen: India's women hockey players have made an emotional appeal to save the Women's Hockey India League, saying the tournament has played a crucial role in building the confidence of a young team that is on the verge of its best-ever World Cup finish since 1974. With 11 World Cup debutants in the squad, India have lost just one match against Olympic champions the Netherlands while holding Olympic silver medallists China to a 2-2 draw in their opening game.

India were knocked out of semifinal contention after a goalless draw against Australia and will now play for fifth and sixth place, which would still be their best World Cup finish in 52 years. The players believe the Women's HIL has been a major factor behind their progress and fear that its discontinuation could hurt the next generation of Indian talent. "I think we have done our best to inspire girls in India to hold a hockey stick. People prefer their kids to play individual sports, but this should give them hope," veteran midfielder Neha, who led Odisha Warriors to the maiden HIL title in 2024-25, told PTI.

"In the last two years, HIL for women has benefited us a lot. Junior and senior Nationals do not have this level of competition. Women's HIL has given us players like Baljeet, Sakshi and Rutuja, who are part of this World Cup team. For upcoming players also, we need this league. It should not be discontinued." The appeal



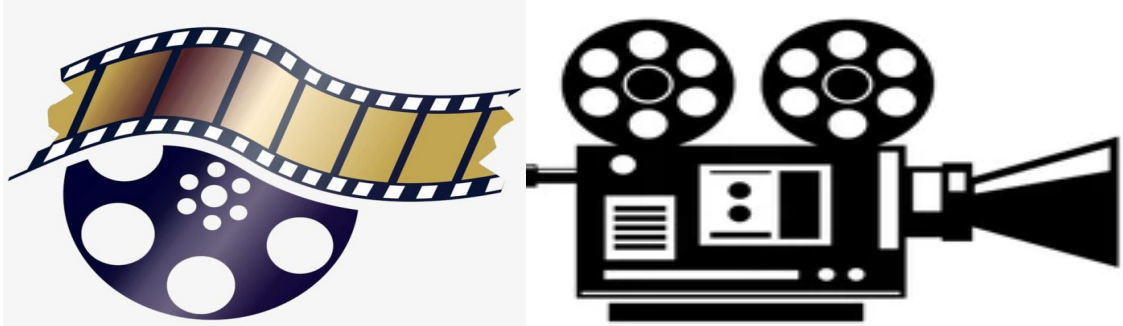
comes as the revived women's HIL faces serious financial challenges, including high operational costs, low broadcast and ticket revenues, delayed player payments and limited sponsorship interest.

India's captain Salima Tete also stressed the league's role in widening the national talent pool. "We have many players from HIL in the Indian team. They get a chance to be selected for the national camp, which is an important opportunity for them," she said. "This is just the beginning for us and there is much more to achieve. For that, HIL is a must so that our talent pool is broadened and the girls get good exposure to handling the pressure of international hockey."

Sakshi Rana, one of the players to have benefited from the league, said playing alongside experienced stars helped her overcome pressure. "HIL has given me confidence, which was very useful in this tournament. It is about handling pressure. We have played alongside many veteran players like World Cup top scorer Yibbi Janssen and learnt a lot," she said. Navneet Kaur said sharing the dressing room with international

stars had removed the fear and hesitation among younger Indian players. "We have been playing HIL for the last two years and gained confidence from that. We have played with some of the biggest names in international hockey and after sharing the dressing room with them, the fear and hesitation was gone," she said. "That gave us self-belief. We often discuss that they are like us and we can beat them because we have played with them." Navneet also urged the teams and corporate houses to support the league at a time when its future is under a cloud. "We have heard that a few teams are pulling out of the Women's HIL, but at a time when our performance graph is going up, we want to request them to support us. It will be a big setback for women's hockey and the future crop of players," she said. For the Indian players the women's league is not merely a commercial venture but an important pathway for developing the next generation. Ishika, Sakshi, Shilpi Dabas, Lalthanluangi are the players who are in the World Cup squad due to powerful performance in HIL. With India producing its strongest World Cup campaign in decades, the

players believe this is precisely the time to strengthen, rather than discontinue, the competition that has helped them take the next step. "I request the Sports Ministry and Hockey India to save this league. I also request the corporate sector, which invests huge money in cricket, to support women's hockey. "Our league does not require that much money. It is not about money, we need exposure. Women's Hockey League should survive. We will do even better in the future," said Navneet, who was player of the tournament last season with the Delhi team. The inaugural season featured four teams -- Delhi SG Pipers, JSW Soorma Hockey Club, Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers and Odisha Warriors. Odisha Warriors were later terminated over non-payment of player dues and franchise fees, while Ranchi Royals replaced them in the second season. The Ranchi franchise has also since been terminated, with Indian players still awaiting payments. Last season's finalists Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers are also contemplating withdrawal, citing financial pressure. Franchise sources said the league is currently not commercially viable. The cost of running both a men's and a women's HIL team is estimated at around Rs 10-12 crore, including an administrative fee of around Rs 1 crore. The franchise fee of Rs 2.5 crore has, however, been removed for the third season for the women's team.



CINEMA

Nagarjuna releases trailer of Allari Naresh-starrer ‘Ramba Oorvasi Menaka’

Telugu star Nagarjuna unveiled the trailer of Chandra Mohan Chintada’s fantasy comedy Ramba Oorvasi Menaka, starring Allari Naresh, under Annapurna Studios. Slated for release on September 4, the film promises a quirky mix of mythology, humour, and whimsical fun.

Hyderabad: Telugu star Nagarjuna has now released the trailer of director Chandra Mohan Chintada’s eagerly awaited comedy entertainer ‘Ramba Oorvasi Menaka’, featuring actor Allari Naresh in the lead, much to the delight of fans and film buffs.Exploring

Taking to his X timeline to release the trailer of the hilarious comedy entertainer, Nagarjuna wrote, “From EVV Satyanarayana garu to dear-est

allarinaresh, this bond is truly close to my heart. So happy to collaborate with Naresh once again under the Annapurnastdious banner! Best wishes to the team of #RambaOorvasiMenaka. A complete laughter riot arriving in theatres on September 4th!”

For the unaware, Allari Naresh is back in a space that has long been synonymous with his brand of entertainment with his upcoming fantasy comedy ‘Ramba Oorvasi Menaka’. Di-rected by Chandra Mohan Chintada and pro-duced by Razesh Danda and Nimmakayala Prasad under Annapurna Studios and Hasya Movies, ‘Ramba Oorvasi Menaka’ is slated to hit screens on September 4.

The film promises a quirky mix of mythol-ogy, rural humour and whimsical fun, with the trailer unveiled by King Nagarjuna offering a glimpse into its unusual world.

Ramba, Oorvasi and Menaka descend on earth after years of prayers from the protagon-ist, Suri (Allari Naresh). However, the three celestial beauties arrive without their divine pow-ers, turning their presence into a major prob-



lem for him. With a series of unexpected challenges piling up, Suri re-mains determined to face everything thrown his way by Lord Indra. Mat-ters get even more chaotic with his girlfriend scolding him over the three apsaras living in his house, the police questioning him, and his mother fighting for her life in the hospital.

Allari Naresh seems to be undoubtedly the biggest highlight of the film, with his impeccable comic timing, energetic performance, and ef-fortless dialogue delivery. He appears completely in his element, bring-ing the right mix of innocence, and humour to his character. Surabhi plays the female lead, while Vennela Kishore adds to the fun with his lively portrayal of Indra. Rashi Singh, Vishnupriya, and Prisha Singh por-tray the three celestial beauties and look apt in their respective roles.

If the trailer is any indication, the film seems to be a colourful and unconventional fantasy comedy, with Allari Naresh once again returning to the genre where his comic strengths are at their best.

On the technical front, the film has cinematography by Raam Reddy and production design by Brahma Kadali. Chaitan Bharadwaj has scored the music for this film, which has Chota K Prasad taking care of the editing.



Mamitha Baiju Stuns in a Classic Saree Look

Her hair is neatly tied back with jasmine flowers, comple-mented by a delicate gold necklace, earrings, green bangles, and a red bindi. Her bright smile lights up the frame.

In this elegant portrait, Malayalam and Tamil actress Mamitha Baiju radiates warmth and charm. She wears a rich emerald-green saree with intricate gold borders, paired with a vibrant purple blouse featuring puffed sleeves. Her hair is neatly tied back with jasmine flowers, complemented by a delicate gold necklace, earrings, green bangles, and a red bindi. Her bright smile lights up the frame.

Born on 22 June 2001 in Kidangoor, Kottayam, Kerala, Mamitha be-gan as a child artist in Paavada (2016) and made her official debut with Sarvopari Palakkaran (2017). She gained critical notice with Kho Kho (2021) and Super Sharanya (2022). Her breakthrough came with the lead role of Reenu in the 2024 romantic comedy Premalu, which be-came one of the highest-grossing Malayalam films of all time.

She made her Tamil debut with Rebel (2024) and followed it with the successful Dude (2025) opposite Pradeep Ranganathan. Ongoing and upcoming projects include Kara (with Dhanush), Jana Nayagan (with Vijay), Vishwanath & Sons (with Suriya), Bethlehem Kudumba Unit (with Nivin Pauly), and Premalu 2. With multiple 100-crore films, Mamitha con-tinues her rapid rise as a leading young star in South Indian cinema.

Sahaa Locked Theatrical Arrival Date

At its heart, Sahaa is expected to follow the evolution of Sanju as he navigates the highs and lows of life. Romance forms an important part of the journey.

Sahaa (Life of Sanju) is moving closer to the big screen, with the makers officially fixing Sep-tember 4 for its worldwide theatrical arrival. Di-rected by Nishanth Doti and produced by Teja Velpucharla under Sumaira Studios, the film fea-tures Shiva Kumar Kasaram and Swetha Lakshman and promises an emotional tale shaped by love, loss and the memories that stay with us.

The announcement comes with a poster that quietly communicates the mood of the film. The poster shows the poster in a bus journey, where a spontaneous moment between the two cre-ates a sense of familiarity and warmth. It sug-gests a romance that grows through ordinary experiences.

At its heart, Sahaa is expected to follow the evolution of Sanju as he navigates the highs and lows of life. Romance forms an important part



of the journey. The film has been making gradual progress through its promotional campaign, with songs and earlier promotional material in-troducing audiences to its world.

With the release date announcement, the makers have now shifted the focus towards the final phase of promotions.

What Is So Special About Romanchakam for Vanga Brothers?

There is an inter-esting buzz around the upcoming Telugu film Romanchakam. The movie is being presented by film-maker Sandeep Reddy Vanga and pro-duced by his brother Pranay Reddy Vanga under the Bhadrakali Pictures banner. Their involvement has natu-rally made many movie lovers curious about the project.

Sandeep Reddy Vanga is known for making films in a dif-ferent style. With Arjun Reddy, he created a strong impact and started a new trend in Telugu cinema. His films received wide attention for their unique stories and bold presentation. So, when a filmmaker like Sandeep supports a film directed by some-one else, people natu-rally wonder what is special about that project.

This is also the first time Sandeep Reddy Vanga is supporting a film outside his own



direction. His brother Pranay Reddy Vanga is also actively promoting Romanchakam. The strong support from both brothers has in-creased interest among movie fans. Many are now expecting the film to offer something en-tertaining and different.

Unlike a huge commercial project, Romanchakam is a young buddy comedy. The movie mainly depends on its story, comedy, characters and performances. Sumanth Prabhas and Ananthika Sanilkumar are playing the lead roles. The cast also features Upendra Limaye, Venkatesh Kakumanu, Narendra Ravi, Mani and Sohan in important roles. Venugopal Reddy has written and directed the film.

Pranay Reddy Vanga recently revealed how the movie came together. According to him, Venugopal first narrated the story around 15 months ago. The director explained the com-plete story in a funny way and even acted out different characters while narrating it. This made the narration interesting and impressed the team. The makers also spent around three months rehearsing with the actors.

With the Vanga brothers backing the project and a young cast leading the story, Romanchakam has already created curiosity. Now, audiences are waiting to see what makes this small film special.

Telangana Government Approves Ticket Price Hike for Yash’s Toxic

Hyderabad: The Telangana govern-ment has accorded permission for a hike in ticket prices for Yash-starrer Toxic, which is scheduled to hit theatres on Au-gust 26. The revised ticket prices will be applicable for 10 days from the film’s re-lease.

Directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic features an ensemble cast including Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, and Huma Qureshi. Produced by KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations. Expecta-tions are very high on the film. Not only Yash’s fans but also the movie lovers are eagerly waiting for the release of the film.

As per the government order (GO), the



enhanced ticket rates will apply to all the-atres in the state. Single-screen theatres can charge an additional Rs 50, including GST, while multiplexes and special the-atres can charge an additional Rs 100, including GST.

The GO also directed KVN-Monster Mind Creations LLP to compulsorily contribute Rs 1 crore to the Telugu Film Industry Em-ployees’ Welfare Committee ac-count operated by the Telangana Film Development Corporation (FDC).

District Collectors, Commis-sioners of Police, licensing au-thorities and other concerned of-ficials have been directed to take necessary action and ensure compliance by theatre manage-ments.